Extending to the non-participating Member States the application of the Pericles IV exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting 2021–2027

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PURPOSE: to extend the exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (Pericles) to the non-participating Member States of the European Union (2021-2027).

ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT: Council may adopt the act only if Parliament has given its consent to the act.

BACKGROUND: the Commission presented a proposal for a Regulation providing for the continuation of the Pericles programme in the post-2020 multiannual financial framework.

Article 139 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union provides that measures governing the use of the euro referred to in Article 133 thereof shall not apply to the Member States with derogation. However, the exchange of information and staff and the assistance and training measures implemented under the Pericles programme should be **uniform** throughout the Union.

The Commission recalled the **significant role of non-participating Member States under the current extension of the Pericles 2020 programme**. The National bank of Croatia, for instance, organised a series of conferences under the title ‘Balkan network for euro protection’ gathering experts from South East Europe to reinforce the protection of the euro against counterfeiting in this area, known for its distribution and production of euro counterfeits.

The Commission therefore considered it necessary to take the necessary measures to **ensure the same level of protection** for the euro in the Member States that do not have the euro as their official currency.

CONTENT: this proposal aims to extend the Regulation establishing an exchange, assistance and training programme for the protection of the euro against counterfeiting (Pericles IV) to **the Member States that do not have the euro as their official currency**. Entities from those Member States shall be considered eligible for funding when they are competent authorities within the meaning of the programme.